

## CLAIMS

1           1.     A data structure for an automated project tracking system, the data  
2 structure residing in a computer readable memory and comprising:

3                 a project window comprising a project identification field formatted to receive  
4 and display a project identifier and a project status field formatted to receive and display a  
5 project status;

6                 a request window comprising a request identification field formatted to receive  
7 and display a request identifier and a request status field formatted to receive and display a  
8 request status; and

9                 a task window comprising a task identification field formatted to receive and  
10 display a task identifier and a task status field formatted to receive and display a task status.

1           2.     The data structure of claim 1 wherein the project window further  
2 comprises a request list, comprising:

3                 a request identification field formatted to display a request identifier for each  
4 of a number of requests for a project; and

5                 a request status field formatted to display a request status for each of the  
6 number of requests for the project.

1           3.     The data structure of claim 1 wherein the request window further  
2 comprises a task list, comprising:

3                 a task identification field formatted to display a task identifier for each of a  
4 number of tasks for a request for a project; and

5                 a task status field formatted to display task status for each of the number of  
6 tasks for the request for the project.





12. The display device of claim 8 wherein the project window is further formatted to display:

a funding summary including an identification and an amount of each of a number of funding sources for a project; and

a request list including an identification and a status of each of a number of requests for the project,

the request window is further formatted to display:

the request list including the identification and the status of each of the number of requests for the project; and

a task list including an identification and a status of each of a number of tasks for the request, and

the task window comprises:

the task list including the identification and the status of each of the number of tasks for the request; and

an invoice list including an identification and an amount of each of a number of invoices for a task.

13. The display device of claim 8 wherein the visual representation of the project widow is in a first color, the visual representation of the request window is in a second color and the visual representation of the task window is in a third color.

14. The display device of claim 8 wherein only one of the project window, the request window and the task window is displayed at a time.

15. A method in a data processing system of project management, comprising:

presenting a project window at a first time in response to a user request for project level information for a project, the project window comprising project level information related to the requested project and a list of user-selectable requests for the requested project;

presenting a request window at a second time in response to a user selection at the project window of one of a number of the requests in the list of user-selectable requests; the request window comprising request level information related to the selected request and a list of user-selectable tasks for the selected request; and

presenting a task window at a third time in response to a user selection at the request window of one of the number of tasks in the list of user-selectable tasks, the task window comprising task level information related to the selected task and a list of invoices for the user selected task.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
receiving a request by a user to enter information a particular project;  
determining if a user has authority to enter information for the particular project;  
entering the information if the user has authority to enter information for the particular project; and  
refusing to enter the information if the user does not have authority to enter information for the particular project.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
receiving a request by a user to modify information a particular project;  
determining if a user has authority to modify information for the particular project;  
entering the information if the user has authority to modify information for the particular project; and  
refusing to enter the information if the user does not have authority to modify information for the particular project.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
automatically generating a form letter in response to a user input; and  
automatically populating fields in the form letter with request level information and task level information for the selected request and the selected task.

1           19.    A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a computer system  
2 to present project management information by:

3               presenting a project window at a first time in response to a user request for  
4 project level information for a project, the project window comprising project level  
5 information related to the requested project and a list of user-selectable requests for the  
6 requested project;

7               presenting a request window at a second time in response to a user selection at  
8 the project window of one of a number of the requests in the list of user-selectable requests;  
9 the request window comprising request level information related to the selected request and a  
10 list of user-selectable tasks for the selected request; and

11              presenting a task window at a third time in response to a user selection at the  
12 request window of one of the number of tasks in the list of user-selectable tasks, the task  
13 window comprising task level information related to the selected task and a list of invoices  
14 for the user selected task.